

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1-13, 15, 16, 18-23, and 25 are currently pending. Claims 1-4, 6,-8, 10-13, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, 23, and 25, as well as the specification, have been amended. Claims 14, 17, and 24 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, and 25.

Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show the “preparation stage,” “feeding sub-stage,” and “retracting sub-stage” as described in the specification. The Applicants respectfully traverse this objection for at least two reasons.

First, the claims have been amended to remove any reference to the “preparation stage,” “feeding sub-stage,” and “retracting sub-stage.” The Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings are not required to show these three stages, since they are not specified in the claims. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a)(“the drawings in a nonprovisional application must show every feature of the invention *specified in the claims*”)(emphasis added).

Second, the “preparation stage,” “feeding sub-stage,” and “retracting sub-stage” are not structural features of the invention, but are *stages of operation* of the structures disclosed in the specification and depicted in the drawings. The Applicants respectfully submit that drawings of these *stages of operation* are not essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention, nor can they be readily depicted in static drawings.

In view of at least these two reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the specification for various informalities with respect to the figure numbers. The specification has been amended, as suggested by the Office Action, to correct these informalities. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objected to claims 12 and 14 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 12 has been amended to overcome the objection, and claim 14 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these objections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-4 have been amended to overcome these rejections.

The Office Action also rejected claims 10, 12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lacking antecedent basis for “the blocking group.” Claims 10 and 12 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for “the blocking group.” Claim 14 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

I. The Office Action rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,354,136 to Takizawa et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 4, as amended, recites “an actuating member adapted to switch the changeover mechanism between high speed and high resolution, the switching of the actuating member being servo dependent on the direction of rotation of the paper feeding motor.” Takizawa does not disclose this feature. The Office Action aligns the paper feed cam 40 of Takizawa with the claimed “actuating member.” However, the paper feed cam 40 does not “switch the changeover mechanism between *high speed* and *high resolution* . . . dependent on the direction of rotation of the paper feeding motor,” as claimed (emphasis added). Instead, the paper feed cam 40 of Takizawa switches the paper feed roller 29 between *movement* and *no movement* based on the direction of rotation of the motor. (See, e.g., Takizawa at 5:65-6:2; 6:57-68.) Therefore,

Takizawa does not disclose “an actuating member adapted to switch the changeover mechanism between high speed and high resolution, the switching of the actuating member being servo dependent on the direction of rotation of the paper feeding motor,” as recited by claim 4.

II. The Office Action rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,090,410 to Nakamura. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 19, as amended, recites that “for a given direction of rotation of [the paper feeding] motor, the second kinematic linkage imparts movement to the sheet in a direction opposite to that of the first kinematic linkage.” Nakamura does not disclose this feature. The Office Action aligns the driven wheel 19 and power wheel 2 of Nakamura with the claimed “first kinematic linkage” and “second kinematic linkage,” respectively. However, for a given rotation of Nakamura’s motor, the driven wheel 19 does not impart movement to a sheet in a direction opposite to that of the power wheel 2, as claimed. Rather, for a given rotation of Nakamura’s motor, the driven wheel 19 and the power wheel 2 both rotate in the *same* direction and, as a result, impart movement to a sheet in the *same* direction. (See, e.g., Nakamura at 3:5-8, 25-28; FIG. 1 (direction arrows 101 and 103).) Therefore, Nakamura does not disclose that “for a given direction of rotation of [the paper feeding] motor, the second kinematic linkage imparts movement to the sheet in a direction opposite to that of the first kinematic linkage,” as recited by claim 19.

III. The Office Action rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,257,692 to Yokoi et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 22, as amended, recites “a control group adapted to command the clutch and the linkages based on different positions of the carriage outside the printing area, wherein the control group is servo dependent on the position of the carriage.” Yokoi does not disclose this feature. The Office Action aligns the lock lever 35A and the control ring 35 of Yokoi with the claimed “control group,” and aligns the spring clutch 40 with the claimed “clutch.” However, the lock lever 35A and control ring 35 of Yokoi do not command the spring clutch 40 “based on different positions of the carriage outside the printing area,” as claimed. Instead, the lock lever 35A and control ring 35 command the spring clutch 40 based on the position of a stopper 41 under the control of an electromagnetic solenoid. (*See, e.g.*, Yokoi at 7:35-38.) Therefore, Yokoi does not disclose “a control group adapted to command the clutch and the linkages based on different positions of the carriage outside the printing area, wherein the control group is servo dependent on the position of the carriage,” as recited by claim 22.

IV. The Office Action rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,909,649 to Okunomiya. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 24, now cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 23 is patentable over Okunomiya.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okunomiya in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,283 to Cho. Claim 1 is the independent claim. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites “a changeover mechanism arranged downstream of said motor and suitable for actuation in response to predetermined operating conditions of the printer to operate the picking roller to move the sheet at high speed during movement in the picking direction, to operate the at least one motor roller to move the sheet at high speed during movement in the retraction direction [opposite the picking direction], and to operate the at least one motor roller to move the sheet at high resolution during movement of the paper in the printing direction [consistent with the picking direction].” No reasonable combination of Okunomiya and Cho discloses or suggests this feature.

The Office Action aligns the change-over gear 9, arm 18, slider 19, change-over arm 22, and change arm 24, collectively, of Okunomiya with the claimed “changeover mechanism.” However, these parts do not move the paper in a picking direction, a retraction direction opposite the picking direction, and a printing direction consistent with the picking direction, as claimed. Instead, the components of Okunomiya only move the paper in a *single*, counterclockwise direction. (See, e.g., Okunomiya at 6:27-7:10.) Cho does not provide the missing disclosure. Therefore, no reasonable combination of Okunomiya and Cho discloses or suggests the invention of claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, and 18 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reason.

II. The Office Action rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okunomiya in view of Cho, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,055,885 to Yoshikado et al. Claim 16 depends from claim 1, which as demonstrated above, is patentable over any reasonable combination of Okunomiya and Cho. Yoshikado does not provide the missing disclosure. Accordingly, claims 1 and 16 are patentable over any reasonable combination of Okunomiya, Cho, and Yoshikado.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Applicant: Claudio Verneti et al.
Appl. No.: 10/510,442

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/18/2007

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